Fresh offensive by LTTE in Sri Lanka

2057. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRI MURL1DHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE;

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether a number of Indian soldiers and officers, constituting the 1PKF, had been killed after a fresh offensive was launched by LTTE men in Sri Lanka in September-October, 1987.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the LTTE men surrender their arms, in full in compliance with the terms of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIV-RAI PATIL): (a) and (b) A total of 257 personnel of the IPKF have been killed as on 23 November, 1987 in the operations against the LTTE since the attacks made by the LTTE on the IPKF camps and per- | sonnel in the first week of October, 1987.

(c) As the LTTE have neither demonstrated their willingness to surrender arms nor extend support to the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, the IPKF has been given the mandate to disarm the militants in terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. The IPKF operations to disarm the LTTE are continuing.

Visits by Prime Minister to foreign countries

2058. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what is the total expenditure incurred in each of these trips, year-wise and country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO); (a) The Prime Minister visited the following countries:—

1985:—USSR, Egypt, France, Algeria, USA, Switzerland, Bhutan, UK, Bahamas, Cuba, Netherlands, Oman, Vietnam, Japan and Bangladesh.

1986:—Maldives, Sweden, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Tanzania, Mauritius, UK, Mexico, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand.

1987:—USSR, Sri Lanka, Canada, USA and Nepal.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

Indo-US Agreement on LCA

2059. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms of the Indo-US agreement for the transfer of technology for the Light Combat Aircraft; and

(b) what are the 'areas and which are the American companies/laboratories which would provide consultancy/support for the Light Combat Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIV-RAJ PATIL). (a) The agreement between Govt, of India and the US Govt, on 'mission area' cooperation for the LCA was signed on October 28, 1987. It enables acquisition and absorption of advanced aeronautics technologies through laboratory-to-laboratory level cooperation between concerned laboratories under the two Governments. This is expected to lead to product*

for the LCA, as necessary. Secondly, a 'single window' for processing export clearances in the US Govt, has been agreed to. This is expected to reduce delays for a time-bound programme like the LCA.

(b) The general areas identified for co-operation between the laboratories are digital light control, avionics and light-weight composites for aircraft structures. The Laboratory from the Indian side will be the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore and the Laboratories from the US Govt, side will be the Wright Aeronautical Laboratories under the US Air Force. No decisions have been taken regarding US aero-space companies which would like to support the LCA programme in these areas.

Explosion in the Office of Assistant High Commissioner at Kandy

2060. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that an explosion took place in the office of the Assistant High Commissioner of India at Kandy on the morning of 25th October, 1987;

(b) if so, what were the findings of the investigation;

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the estimated loss of life and pro perty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investigating agencies of the Sri Lankan Government have not yet reach ed final conclusions.

(c) The Assistant High Commission in consultation with the High Commission in Colombo and the Ministry of External Affairs have tiken appropriate security measures.

(d) There was no loss of life, but the building of the Assisatnt High Commission was extensively damaged.

Compensation for killed/wounded IPKF soldiers

2061. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA;

DR. G. VUAYA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether any compensation would be paid for the IPKF soldiers killed or wounded in Sri Lankan operations;

(b) what are the norms and conditions for giving compensation and whether they are applicable to Sri Lankan peace operations; and

(c) what have been the casualties on both sides, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIV-RAI PATIL): (a) and (b) There are no prescribed norms and conditions for giving ex-gratta compensation. There is no proposal to give such compensation to IPKF personnel killed or wounded in Sri Lanka. The IPKF personnel killed or wounded in Sri Lanka are entitled to Liberalised Pensionary Awards as are applicable to war/battle casualties, the main features of which are given in the Statement attached. *(See* below)

(c) The number of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka so far is 262, whlie the number of personnel wounded is 927. As per available information, it in assessed that 954 LITE personnel have lost their lives during the operations so far.